



Office for Health  
Improvement  
& Disparities

To: Directors of Public Health  
for forwarding to Directors of Children's Services

25 August 2022

Dear Directors of Public Health and Directors of Children's Services

Notice of the 2022 to 2023 National Dental Epidemiology Programme survey

I would like to make you aware of this year's oral health survey of children in year 6, which is taking place during the academic year 2022 to 2023. This survey will use the same sampling frame as previous surveys to allow statistical comparison at local authority level. The surveys are currently the only measures we have of oral health at local authority geography and the national programme produces robust information that is comparable across local authorities offering benchmarking and an overall national picture.

In response to requests made previously, modifications have been made to enable inclusion of children in year 6 attending special schools in the survey, where local decisions are made to commission this extra sample.

OHID is asking directors of public health and directors of children's services to support local involvement in the 2022 to 2023 survey. It would be helpful if directors of public health could voice their support for this year's survey to directors of children's services and pass on their endorsement to head teachers of primary and middle schools.

Dental epidemiology co-ordinators (consultants in dental public health) across England, based in NHS England regions, will advise throughout the process, and can advise on the commissioning of these surveys.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank local authorities, and particularly directors of public health, for their continued support for the National Dental Epidemiology Programme.

As OHID co-ordinates the National Dental Epidemiology Programme we are keen to hear how surveys can continue to respond to the needs of users so I would be happy to receive feedback.

Yours sincerely,

*A. Ireland*

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